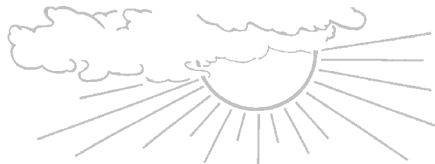




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*A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture*

## Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending September 14, 2003

**Good week for Field Work:** There were 5 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 2 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 20 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included cutting and baling hay; harvesting silage and filling silos; preparing equipment for harvesting; spreading manure and lime; caring for livestock; harvesting, canning and freezing fruit; cutting firewood; and repairing buildings.

**Crops:** This week weather conditions allowed farmers to cut and bale more hay than they have during wetter weeks. Quality of hay improved as well, with 8 percent rated very poor, 12 percent rated poor, 26 percent rated fair, 43 percent rated good and 11 percent rated excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa advanced to 77 percent complete, 13 percent behind 2002 but only 6 percent behind the five-year average. The fourth cutting of alfalfa remained at 20 percent complete, 33 percent behind last year and 26 percent behind the five-year average. The second cutting of timothy clover hay advanced to 82 percent complete, on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. In terms of corn development, 84 percent of corn in Pennsylvania has reached the dough stage, 51 percent has reached the dent stage and 12 percent has reached the mature stage. The overall development is 10 to 30 percent behind the 2002 pace and the five-year average. The percent of corn harvested for silage advanced to 11 percent complete, about 60 percent behind 2002 but only 29 percent behind the five-year average. The corn condition was rated as 2 percent very poor, 7 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 47 percent good and 25 percent excellent, about the same as last week. The condition of soybeans was rated as 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 54 percent good and 25 percent excellent, a slight improvement over last week. Winter wheat planted remained at 7 percent, on pace with last year and the five-year average. As of this week, sixty-seven percent of tobacco has been harvested, 22 and 11 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. Fall plowing advanced to 15 percent complete, about 14 percent behind last year and the five-year average.

**Livestock:** The condition of pasture land declined slightly compared to last week with the decrease in precipitation. Two percent of pasture was rated as very poor, 7 percent was rated poor, 25 percent was rated fair, 49 percent was rated good and 17 percent was rated excellent.

**Fruit & Vegetable:** With many farmers focusing on other harvesting activities, not as much fruit harvesting was completed as observed in previous weeks. The peach harvest advanced to 96 percent complete, on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. Thirty-five percent of apples have been harvested, 5 percent behind last year but 1 percent ahead of the five-year average. The apple condition was rated as 1 percent poor, 15

percent fair, 77 percent good and 7 percent excellent, a slight decline compared to last week. The percent of grapes harvested advanced to 10 percent, slightly behind 2002 and the five-year average. The potato harvest advanced to 32 percent complete, 21 and 10 percent behind last year and the five-year average, respectively.

**U.S. As of September 7, 2003:** Highlights: Heavy rainfall hit the southern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, bringing lower temperatures for the week. However, the northern and western portions of the Corn Belt had little rain and above-normal temperatures. In the Southeast, scattered showers brought moderate rainfall to most areas, while temperatures remained above normal. Mississippi Delta farmers saw light rain and below-normal temperatures. The northern and central Great Plains remained dry, with above-normal temperatures in the northern Great Plains, but normal to below-normal temperatures in the central Great Plains. The southern Great Plains had below-normal temperatures, with moderate to heavy rain in the east, but little rain in the west. Hot weather returned to the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains, and the region remained dry. The Southwest and southern and central Rocky Mountains experienced above-normal temperatures, with only scattered showers. In the Northeast, below-normal temperatures came with light to moderate rainfall. Corn: Ninety-five percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, 1 percentage point behind last year's progress and the 5-year average of 96 percent. Seventy-four percent of the crop had reached the dent stage, 3 points behind last year at this time and 6 points behind the 5-year average. Twenty-three percent of the crop was mature, compared with 27 percent last year and 30 percent for the 5-year average. Warm, dry weather in the northern Corn Belt and northern Great Plains promoted development through the dent stage, but conditions deteriorated. Denting in the southern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley progressed less rapidly, but conditions there improved with the heavy rainfall. The crop was slow to mature throughout the Corn Belt and Ohio Valley, as Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin were 1 week or more behind the normal pace. Soybeans: Sixteen percent of the crop was dropping leaves, 2 percentage points behind last year and 4 points behind the 5-year average. Progress in the Ohio Valley remained 1 week or more behind the average. The central Great Plains and most of the Corn Belt were also well behind the average, while the northern Great Plains remained ahead of the normal pace. Crop condition improved slightly in the southern Corn Belt and Ohio Valley but declined in the northern Corn Belt and the Great Plains. Winter Wheat: Seven percent of next year's crop had been planted, 1 percentage point behind last year, but even with the 5-year average. In the Corn Belt, planting of soft red winter wheat had not begun.

# Weather Data For Week Ending September 14, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - September 14, 03					GDD
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F		BASE 40F	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
<b>NORTHWEST</b>												
Erie	77	57	68	+3	0.00	0	17.63	-2.73	69	2300	+24	3791
Franklin_AG	79	49	64	+2	0.06	1	28.98	+6.20	105	2075	-53	3612
Meadville	78	49	65	+4	0.01	1	26.05	+3.36	89	2094	+143	3619
Mercer	79	42	62	-2	0.01	1	32.10	+10.44	78	1774	-333	3286
Springboro	79	48	65	+0	0.00	0	23.80	+3.82	78	1958	-292	3444
Warren	80	49	65	+3	0.05	1	30.42	+7.64	83	2064	-1	3570
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>												
Bradford_Region	75	45	61	+3	0.07	1	27.36	+4.55	93	1614	+106	3075
Emporium	80	51	64	+4	0.25	1	30.68	+7.96	88	2109	+410	3649
Kane	73	39	57	-1	0.04	1	25.78	+2.60	76	1173	-306	2544
Laporte	75	47	61	-2	0.35	2	29.80	+8.80	85	1843	-272	3304
Lock_Haven	79	52	65	+2	0.52	2	24.80	+4.10	79	2422	+181	3983
Port_Allegany	78	49	63	+4	0.22	1	29.63	+8.09	80	1769	+108	3231
Renovo	80	49	65	+1	0.43	2	24.66	+3.96	88	2291	+50	3847
Ridgway	78	47	62	+3	0.04	1	24.87	+2.15	76	1771	+72	3273
Stevenson_Dam	79	52	64	+5	0.31	1	26.36	+3.64	92	2106	+407	3644
Towanda	78	50	64	+2	0.03	2	28.03	+10.58	97	2094	-37	3599
Wellsboro	77	46	61	+2	0.46	2	25.77	+8.26	80	1765	+162	3227
Williamsport_AP	81	50	67	+2	0.48	3	27.61	+7.23	80	2507	+37	4068
<b>NORTHEAST</b>												
Hawley	77	46	61	+0	0.42	2	24.12	+4.25	70	1870	+40	3374
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	80	49	66	+3	0.08	2	27.34	+8.04	74	2382	+38	3916
Susquehanna	80	48	64	+5	0.07	1	29.32	+8.13	72	2298	+558	3810
<b>WEST CENTRAL</b>												
Butler	80	48	64	+0	0.01	1	26.18	+4.57	86	2226	+22	3795
New_Castle	83	52	67	+4	0.00	0	31.63	+12.00	76	2397	+192	3973
Slippery_Rock	82	45	66	+5	0.00	0	32.98	+11.96	84	2288	+302	3856
<b>CENTRAL</b>												
Altoona/Blair_C	78	48	64	-1	0.23	2	22.29	+3.58	96	2291	-56	3832
Du_Bois	76	48	63	+2	0.14	2	28.97	+7.26	100	1988	-49	3507
Lewistown	79	52	64	-2	0.55	1	24.67	+4.52	75	2577	+3	4148
Middletown	80	54	68	+1	0.31	4	28.20	+8.27	89	2829	-72	4405
Prince_Gallitzi	78	47	63	+1	0.12	2	25.06	+0.95	92	2094	+203	3607
Selinsgrove	79	52	65	+2	0.97	1	24.83	+4.00	81	2430	+19	3985
State_College_P	75	52	63	-1	0.52	3	29.22	+10.31	86	2381	+61	3935
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>												
Allentown-Bethl	81	52	68	+2	0.75	2	25.94	+4.09	78	2680	+25	4238
Lehighnton	77	51	64	-2	1.23	2	30.09	+8.42	91	2313	-252	3850
Matamoras	77	48	62	-3	0.25	1	24.90	+2.97	78	2022	-299	3523
Tobyhanna	82	47	68	+10	1.58	2	34.31	+11.03	85	2515	+916	4053
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	55	67	+3	0.00	0	21.78	+1.79	91	2681	+322	4283
Derry	79	52	65	+2	0.10	1	31.04	+10.18	81	2370	+142	3925
Meyersdale	76	43	60	-5	0.18	2	25.21	+2.52	89	1795	-399	3290
Mount_Pleasant	79	48	64	+2	0.08	2	27.74	+4.00	90	2320	+327	3894
Pittsburgh_Intl	80	52	68	+3	0.00	0	21.91	+3.07	80	2631	+163	4228
Rector	81	46	63	+1	0.00	0	26.34	+2.60	81	2348	+355	3915
Waynesburg	79	50	64	+0	0.04	1	33.49	+12.82	90	2436	+147	4025
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>												
Biglerville	80	49	65	-3	0.68	2	29.40	+10.71	96	2644	-190	4218
Everett	78	48	62	-4	0.53	3	25.10	+6.90	89	2348	+11	3907
Hanover	79	47	65	-4	0.49	2	29.63	+10.94	75	2660	-174	4232
Shippensburg	81	49	66	-3	0.06	2	25.21	+6.96	75	2791	-24	4372
South_Mountain	75	47	61	-4	0.59	2	30.89	+12.18	80	2130	-210	3648
York_AP	80	48	66	-2	0.68	2	23.98	+3.79	84	2692	-128	4264
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>												
Green_Lane	85	52	68	+3	1.32	2	30.99	+9.82	79	2839	+301	4413
Hamburg	80	53	67	+4	0.63	2	27.04	+2.68	82	2603	+278	4161
Hopewell	79	51	66	-4	0.76	2	27.19	+5.09	80	2547	-432	4089
Lancaster_AP	80	52	68	+1	0.69	2	22.34	+1.00	78	2693	+10	4260
Neshaminy_Falls	84	54	69	+3	1.36	2	23.49	-1.10	74	2875	+224	4438
New_Holland	82	54	67	+1	1.65	2	28.31	+6.97	82	2673	-10	4234
Philadelphia	83	58	71	+2	0.71	2	21.52	+0.65	71	3260	+189	4855
Philadelphia_NE	80	54	68	-2	0.99	2	21.37	+0.50	78	2977	-94	4554
Reading_AP	80	53	68	+2	0.59	2	22.44	-0.35	78	2770	+132	4332
Valley_Forge_Na	88	50	68	-2	0.96	2	27.96	+5.86	80	2630	-349	4181
Willow_Grove	78	53	68	+2	1.30	2	20.72	-3.87	70	2766	+115	4328

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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# INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

*Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

"One entire week without rain, incredible! Farmers were taking this opportunity to finish up on their grass forage crops. A few farmers got started on corn silage while others were getting equipment ready and finishing up projects that were rain delayed this summer. The upcoming week looks to have off and on rain showers, but nothing steady."

- Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Lots of hay made dry and as silage, as this may be the last week to make dry hay. Silage harvesting has started on some farms, mainly because the silo is empty and the cows need something to eat until the corn is ready for ensiling. Everyone is keeping their eyes on Isabel. Fear of flooding conditions may get some corn harvested early."

- Willie Keeney, Susquehanna County

"Potato harvesting will be in full swing this week. Many of the producers are reporting that the potatoes are rotting in the fields. Many of the lower laying fields are lost due to the extreme wet conditions. Corn needs a lot of heat and daylight to mature. Daylight time is rapidly decreasing and when evening comes the temperatures drop quickly. Only time will tell the outcome of the corn crop."

- Dolly Little, Cambria County

"Good week for field work; 1 inch of rain on Saturday."

- Dick Decker, Centre County

"Finally got a good week of weather. Made about 200 great round bails of hay, too bad all the hay this summer wasn't this good. Hope to get one more good week this fall to make some more hay."

- Marina Kemper, Huntington County

"I passed some of our Amish neighbors' farms and noticed them threshing oats. The wet weather has the grains sprouting in the shocks. I didn't know if this would be of interest to anyone."

- Tim Vought, Somerset County

"Best week for field work all season. Finally enough rain-free days in a row to be able to harvest some dry hay. Continued warm, sunny days are exactly what corn and soybeans need to mature. Seeing a big surge in sweet corn production from all the plantings made during the one dry week we had in June."

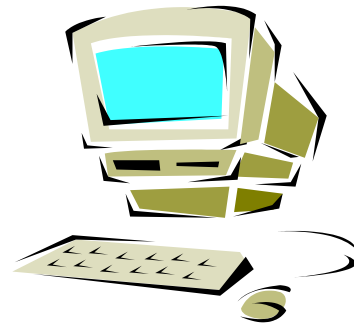
- John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Corn harvest is still holding off. Maturity seems to be slow in coming. Yields look like they will be above average. Soybeans are still growing well. Hay is being made but drying is difficult. Pasture is in good condition. Dry weather is now needed to get corn matured."

- Thomas A. Kerr, Franklin County

"Beautiful week!! Corn choppers are going full speed. Lots of nice and weedy hay being made. Several new grass seedings look great."

- Axel Linde, Lancaster County



PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 14, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
		<i>Percent</i>	
Fall plowing	15	29	28
Corn, dough	84	93	91
Corn, dent	51	78	67
Corn, mature	12	39	25
Corn silage, harvested	11	71	40
Winter wheat, planted	7	13	7
Tobacco, harvested	67	89	78
Potatoes, harvested	32	53	42
Alfalfa, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cutting	77	90	83
Alfalfa, 4 <sup>th</sup> cutting	20	53	46
Timothy clover, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cutting	82	84	86
Peaches, harvested	96	98	96
Apples, harvested	35	40	34
Grapes, harvested	10	16	11

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 14, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
			<i>Percent</i>		
Corn	2	7	19	47	25
Soybeans	1	4	16	54	25
Quality of hay made	8	12	26	43	11
Pasture conditions	2	7	25	49	17
Apples	0	1	15	77	7

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